

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph:

[0030] The pH of the polishing slurry may be varied by adding a source of hydroxyl ions to the slurry. Suitable sources of hydroxyl ions may include potassium hydroxide (KOH), ammonium hydroxide (NH_4OH), sodium hydroxide (NaOH), magnesium hydroxide (MgOH) (Mg(OH)_2), calcium hydroxide (CaOH) (Ca(OH)_2), and combinations thereof, among others.